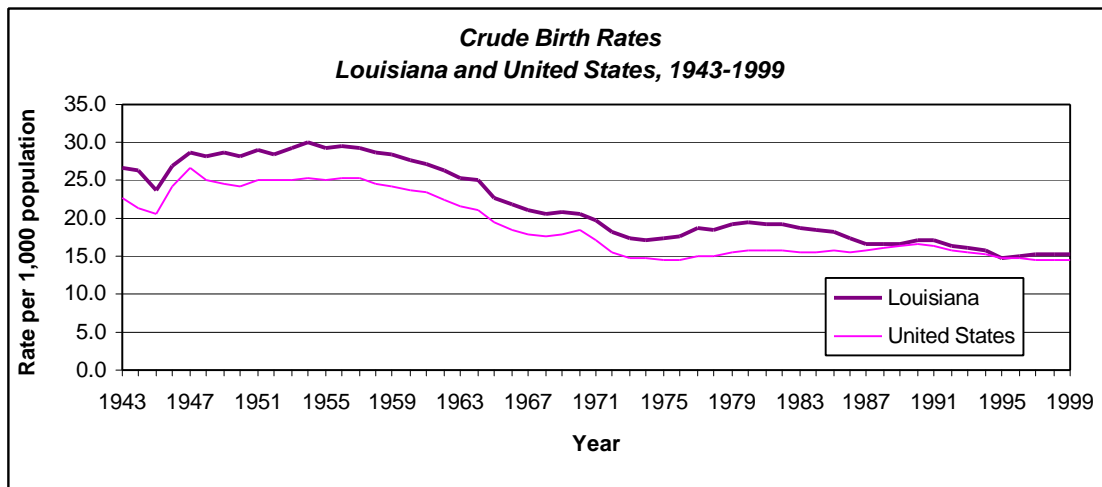




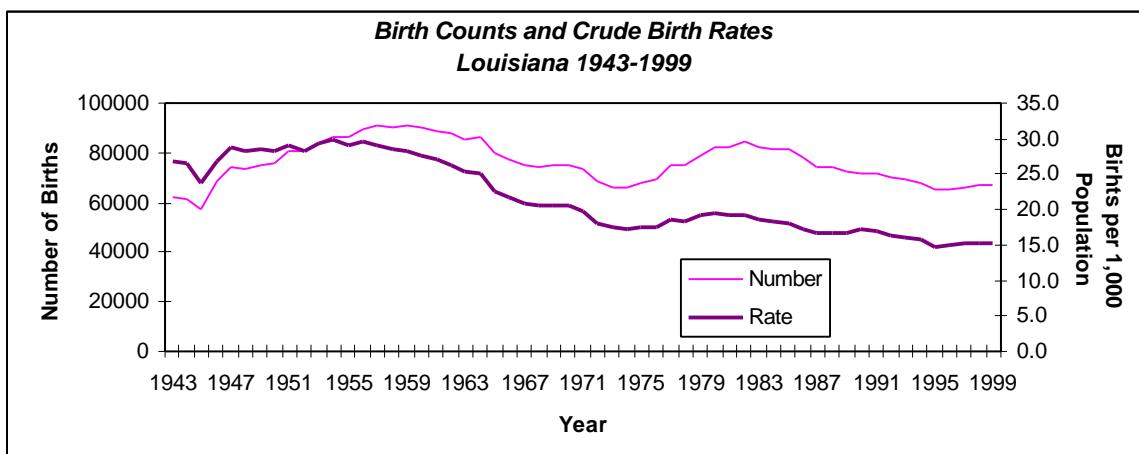
B. BIRTHS

Live Birth Counts and Birth Rates

In 1999, there were 67,034 births to Louisiana residents. This marked a slight increase from the number of Louisiana births in 1998 (up 0.4%), and matched the percent increase seen at the national level in the number of births in 1999 versus 1998. Louisiana's 1999 crude birth rate was 15.3 live births per 1,000 population. Because the crude birth rate relates the number of live births to the total population in an area, without regard to the age or sex distribution of the population, it is useful as a measure of the contribution of births to the growth of the population of the area.¹ Louisiana's 1999 crude birth rate was unchanged from 1998, and was slightly higher than the 1999 national rate (preliminary data) of 14.5 per 1,000 population.



Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics
National Center for Health Statistics (preliminary 1999 data)



Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics

¹ Clarke SC and Ventura SJ. *Birth and Fertility for States: United States, 1990*. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 21(52), 1994.



In the table below, crude birth rates are furnished to compare Louisiana's standing among the neighboring states. (Note: Although Louisiana's final 1999 rate is available and is reported in this document, National Center for Health Statistics preliminary 1999 data for all states have been used in the table below to permit comparison with surrounding states.) Louisiana continues to rank in the top third of the country in terms of birth rate. The state's 1999 ranking of 11th highest in the nation equals its 1998 ranking. Among neighboring states, Louisiana's birth rate ranks in the middle.

Crude Birth Rates		
Louisiana, Neighboring States, and United States, 1999		
State	Birth Rate*	National Ranking
Alabama	14.2	22
Arkansas	14.4	18
Louisiana	15.3	11
Mississippi	15.4	10
Texas	17.3	2
United States	14.5	-

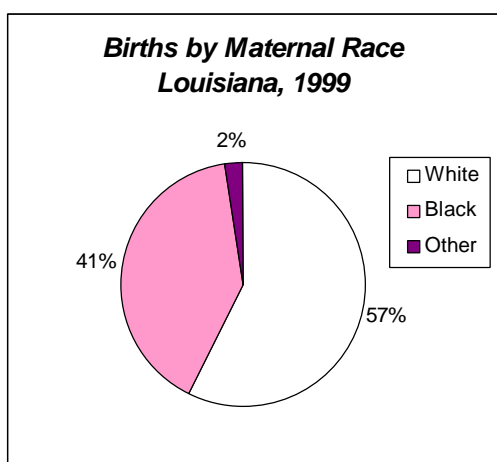
*Rate per 1,000 population

Source: National Center for Health Statistics

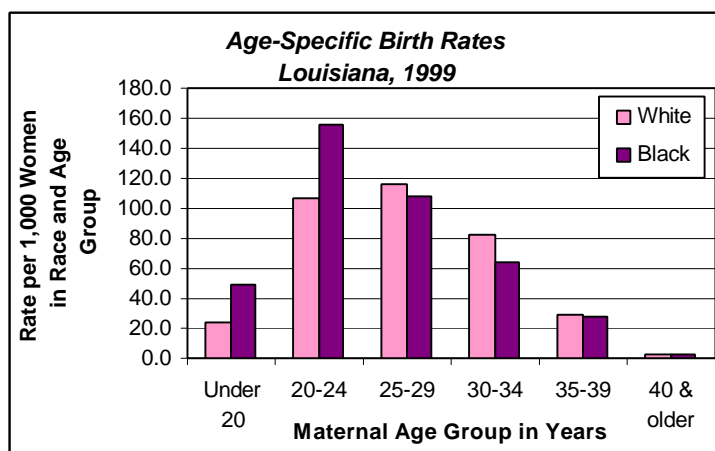
Although blacks represent only 32% of the population of Louisiana, 41% of the state's live births in 1999 were to black mothers. The birth rate for whites is 13.3 per 1,000 population while that of blacks is 19.2. Much of the disparity seems to occur in women under the age of 25.

Although birth rates for both racial groups peak in the twenties, the birth rate for blacks is much higher for mothers less than 25 years old than for whites of comparable age. After the age of 25, birth rates become more similar.

There is also disparity among parishes in terms of birth rate. In 1999 Vernon parish had the highest rate at 21.9 births per 1,000 population. This was almost twice the rate of Bienville (11.0), the parish with the lowest birth rate.



Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics



Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics

[illegible]

Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics



Live Births By Race, Age of Mother, Parish of Occurrence, and Parish of Residence Louisiana, 1999													
Parish And larger Cities	Total by Occurrence	Total by Residence	Rate+	Race	Age in years								
					LT 15	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 +	Unk.
State	67419	67034	15.3	All	266	11492	20922	16987	11438	4967	916	39	7
	38898	38350		White	35	4776	10577	11058	7964	3338	573	26	<5
	27050	27234		Black	228	6567	10020	5490	3115	1490	308	12	<5
	1471	1450		Other	<5	149	325	439	359	139	35	<5	-
Acadia	444	940	16.3	All	<5	190	335	198	140	63	11	<5	-
	303	725		White	<5	117	259	160	124	54	9	<5	-
	139	213		Black	<5	73	76	36	16	9	<5	-	-
	<5	<5		Other	-	-	-	<5	-	-	-	-	-
Allen	-	364	14.9	All	<5	61	134	94	52	17	5	-	-
	-	285		White	<5	49	96	81	41	13	<5	-	-
	-	71		Black	-	10	35	12	10	<5	-	-	-
	-	8		Other	-	<5	<5	<5	<5	-	<5	-	-
Ascension	<5	1314	17.8	All	<5	163	352	380	301	97	15	<5	-
	<5	987		White	<5	91	237	318	251	75	12	<5	-
	<5	319		Black	<5	72	114	58	47	22	<5	-	-
	-	8		Other	-	-	<5	<5	<5	-	-	-	-
Assumption	<5	297	13.0	All	<5	53	87	76	51	23	5	<5	-
	-	171		White	-	23	42	53	41	11	<5	-	-
	<5	123		Black	<5	30	42	23	10	12	<5	<5	-
	-	<5		Other	-	-	<5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Avoyelles	<5	617	15.0	All	<5	120	233	160	70	25	6	<5	-
	<5	393		White	-	64	138	116	56	15	<5	-	-
	<5	221		Black	<5	55	95	42	14	10	<5	<5	-
	-	<5		Other	-	<5	-	<5	-	-	-	-	-
Beauregard	570	433	13.6	All	<5	79	154	122	58	16	<5	-	-
	458	371		White	<5	64	125	113	52	15	<5	-	-
	101	58		Black	-	15	28	7	5	<5	<5	-	-
	11	<5		Other	-	-	<5	<5	<5	-	-	-	-
Bienville	-	171	11.0	All	<5	50	48	35	19	12	5	-	-
	-	97		White	-	15	30	28	12	8	<5	-	-
	-	74		Black	<5	35	18	7	7	<5	<5	-	-
	-	-		Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bossier	693	1485	15.7	All	8	205	464	398	278	119	13	-	-
	549	1058		White	<5	110	322	320	203	92	8	-	-
	131	400		Black	5	93	136	71	68	23	<5	-	-
	13	27		Other	-	<5	6	7	7	<5	<5	-	-
Caddo	6031	3653	15.2	All	22	677	1168	982	521	230	52	<5	-
	3117	1631		White	<5	199	410	546	308	136	30	-	-
	2823	1973		Black	20	477	750	416	199	88	22	<5	-
	91	49		Other	-	<5	8	20	14	6	-	-	-
Calcasieu	3452	2858	15.8	All	9	524	965	686	467	176	28	<5	-
	2530	2005		White	<5	312	635	549	356	125	24	<5	-
	883	819		Black	5	210	321	127	100	50	<5	<5	-
	39	34		Other	<5	<5	9	10	11	<5	-	-	-



Live Births By Race, Age of Mother, Parish of Occurrence, and Parish of Residence Louisiana, 1999													
Parish And larger Cities	Total by Occurrence	Total by Residence	Rate+	Race	Age in years								
					LT 15	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 +	Unk.
Caldwell	<5	123	11.6	All	-	22	53	29	15	<5	-	-	-
	<5	108		White	-	19	48	26	11	<5	-	-	-
	<5	15		Black	-	<5	5	<5	<5	-	-	-	-
	-	-		Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cameron	-	125	13.9	All	-	25	45	26	17	12	-	-	-
	-	119		White	-	24	41	26	16	12	-	-	-
	-	<5		Black	-	<5	<5	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	<5		Other	-	-	<5	-	<5	-	-	-	-
Catahoula	-	142	13.2	All	-	44	49	28	13	7	<5	-	-
	-	82		White	-	20	31	21	7	<5	-	-	-
	-	60		Black	-	24	18	7	6	<5	<5	-	-
	-	-		Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Claiborne	89	190	11.1	All	<5	46	50	44	35	12	<5	-	-
	30	79		White	-	16	23	22	13	5	-	-	-
	59	111		Black	<5	30	27	22	22	7	<5	-	-
	-	-		Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Concordia	305	302	14.5	All	-	96	109	59	30	5	<5	-	-
	92	149		White	-	41	51	31	21	<5	<5	-	-
	210	150		Black	-	54	58	27	8	<5	<5	-	-
	<5	<5		Other	-	<5	-	<5	<5	-	-	-	-
Desoto	<5	396	15.6	All	<5	81	127	98	62	21	<5	-	-
	-	207		White	-	33	65	61	38	9	<5	-	-
	<5	189		Black	<5	48	62	37	24	12	<5	-	-
	-	-		Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
E Baton Rouge	10241	6206	15.5	All	25	919	1695	1636	1233	584	106	8	-
	5954	2874		White	<5	174	555	892	819	356	68	8	-
	4137	3203		Black	23	734	1114	707	376	213	36	-	-
	150	129		Other	-	11	26	37	38	15	<5	-	-
East Carroll	<5	150	17.0	All	<5	42	52	34	14	6	-	-	-
	-	30		White	-	5	11	5	7	<5	-	-	-
	<5	120		Black	<5	37	41	29	7	<5	-	-	-
	-	-		Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
E Feliciana	<5	316	15.5	All	<5	59	101	80	52	21	<5	-	-
	<5	165		White	-	25	47	50	32	10	<5	-	-
	<5	151		Black	<5	34	54	30	20	11	<5	-	-
	-	-		Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Evangeline	771	529	15.5	All	<5	109	191	117	81	26	<5	-	-
	462	329		White	-	53	122	88	52	14	-	-	-
	298	198		Black	<5	56	69	28	29	11	<5	-	-
	11	<5		Other	-	-	-	<5	-	<5	-	-	-
Franklin	7	348	16.0	All	<5	69	147	80	36	8	<5	-	<5
	5	203		White	-	27	82	60	24	6	<5	-	<5
	<5	143		Black	<5	42	64	20	11	<5	-	-	-
	-	<5		Other	-	-	<5	-	<5	-	-	-	-



Live Births By Race, Age of Mother, Parish of Occurrence, and Parish of Residence Louisiana, 1999													
Parish And larger Cities	Total by Occurrence	Total by Residence	Rate+	Race	Age in years								
					LT 15	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 +	Unk.
Grant	<5	283	14.9	All	<5	54	96	75	39	14	<5	-	-
	<5	250		White	<5	48	83	66	37	12	<5	-	-
	-	31		Black	-	6	11	9	<5	<5	<5	-	-
	-	<5		Other	-	-	<5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Iberia	1139	1212	16.6	All	<5	256	377	270	207	90	9	<5	-
	673	732		White	-	112	210	183	152	71	<5	<5	-
	434	449		Black	<5	139	158	80	47	17	6	-	-
	32	31		Other	-	5	9	7	8	<5	-	-	-
Iberville	385	460	14.7	All	-	95	149	113	72	24	7	-	-
	68	217		White	-	31	59	67	46	10	<5	-	-
	315	241		Black	-	64	90	46	26	13	<5	-	-
	<5	<5		Other	-	-	-	-	-	<5	<5	-	-
Jackson	-	196	12.6	All	-	35	72	55	25	6	<5	-	<5
	-	135		White	-	21	48	42	17	6	<5	-	-
	-	60		Black	-	13	24	13	8	-	<5	-	<5
	-	<5		Other	-	<5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jefferson	7842	6311	13.9	All	22	872	1674	1668	1398	563	111	<5	-
	4971	3973		White	<5	369	925	1119	1048	424	83	<5	-
	2471	1979		Black	19	472	684	438	248	101	17	-	-
	400	359		Other	<5	31	65	111	102	38	11	-	-
Jefferson Davis	327	514	16.4	All	<5	102	186	126	64	27	7	-	-
	273	398		White	<5	70	139	107	56	20	5	-	-
	54	113		Black	<5	32	46	17	8	7	<5	-	-
	-	<5		Other	-	-	<5	<5	-	-	-	-	-
Lafayette	5222	2889	15.4	All	<5	378	802	737	619	296	51	<5	-
	3619	1934		White	-	179	471	551	479	215	37	<5	-
	1513	908		Black	<5	194	320	172	129	77	12	-	-
	90	47		Other	-	5	11	14	11	<5	<5	-	-
Lafourche	1096	1237	13.9	All	<5	221	354	335	231	83	11	-	-
	945	940		White	-	135	246	288	193	70	8	-	-
	124	252		Black	<5	74	90	38	33	12	<5	-	-
	27	45		Other	-	12	18	9	5	<5	-	-	-
Lasalle	-	183	13.0	All	-	32	80	39	21	7	<5	-	-
	-	162		White	-	27	72	34	19	6	<5	-	-
	-	20		Black	-	5	8	<5	<5	<5	-	-	-
	-	<5		Other	-	-	-	<5	-	-	-	-	-
Lincoln	573	549	13.3	All	<5	89	186	144	85	34	7	-	-
	253	260		White	-	25	65	96	55	17	<5	-	-
	315	281		Black	<5	64	119	45	27	17	5	-	-
	5	8		Other	-	-	<5	<5	<5	-	-	-	-
Livingston	<5	1442	16.2	All	<5	212	451	437	237	92	10	<5	-
	<5	1356		White	<5	191	416	423	229	85	9	<5	-
	-	79		Black	-	21	33	11	8	6	-	-	-
	-	7		Other	-	-	<5	<5	-	<5	<5	-	-



Live Births By Race, Age of Mother, Parish of Occurrence, and Parish of Residence Louisiana, 1999													
Parish And larger Cities	Total by Occurrence	Total by Residence	Rate+	Race	Age in years								
					LT 15	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 +	Unk.
Madison	<5	244	18.9	All	<5	70	77	54	29	11	<5	-	-
	-	69		White	-	15	20	17	12	5	-	-	-
	<5	175		Black	<5	55	57	37	17	6	<5	-	-
	-	-		Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Morehouse	452	471	15.0	All	<5	122	164	110	45	22	<5	-	-
	272	212		White	-	42	77	59	20	12	<5	-	-
	175	256		Black	<5	80	87	50	23	10	<5	-	-
	5	<5		Other	-	-	-	<5	<5	-	-	-	-
Natchitoches	584	576	15.4	All	<5	108	237	121	74	27	5	<5	-
	307	276		White	-	42	96	77	37	22	<5	<5	-
	275	297		Black	<5	66	141	44	35	5	<5	<5	-
	<5	<5		Other	-	-	-	-	<5	-	<5	-	-
Orleans	9036	7663	16.6	All	43	1463	2404	1752	1233	638	122	6	<5
	2504	1409		White	<5	59	207	382	446	259	52	<5	<5
	6315	6062		Black	41	1400	2171	1311	719	351	63	5	<5
	217	192		Other	-	<5	26	59	68	28	7	-	-
Ouachita	3687	2139	14.4	All	17	340	689	613	314	143	22	<5	-
	2060	1128		White	<5	123	311	382	209	89	12	<5	-
	1603	994		Black	16	216	376	222	102	52	10	-	-
	24	17		Other	-	<5	<5	9	<5	<5	-	-	-
Plaquemines	<5	416	16.2	All	-	67	142	107	75	19	5	-	<5
	<5	292		White	-	44	91	84	53	14	5	-	<5
	<5	111		Black	-	22	50	20	17	<5	-	-	-
	-	13		Other	-	<5	<5	<5	5	<5	-	-	-
Pointe Coupee	<5	370	15.9	All	-	66	112	94	64	28	6	-	-
	-	208		White	-	25	52	64	45	18	<5	-	-
	<5	160		Black	-	41	59	29	19	10	<5	-	-
	-	<5		Other	-	-	<5	<5	-	-	-	-	-
Rapides	3361	1990	15.5	All	<5	390	683	487	288	121	15	<5	-
	2215	1162		White	<5	190	337	334	219	72	8	<5	-
	1105	799		Black	<5	192	343	146	62	48	5	-	-
	41	29		Other	-	8	<5	7	7	<5	<5	<5	-
Red River	<5	141	14.6	All	-	32	48	37	15	7	<5	-	-
	-	64		White	-	11	22	18	7	6	-	-	-
	<5	76		Black	-	21	26	18	8	<5	<5	-	-
	-	<5		Other	-	-	-	<5	-	-	-	-	-
Richland	<5	360	17.3	All	<5	87	136	80	36	15	<5	-	-
	-	188		White	-	36	70	47	25	8	<5	-	-
	<5	172		Black	<5	51	66	33	11	7	<5	-	-
	-	-		Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sabine	<5	320	13.8	All	-	65	112	86	35	18	<5	-	-
	<5	231		White	-	49	75	67	23	16	<5	-	-
	<5	72		Black	-	11	34	13	10	<5	<5	-	-
	-	17		Other	-	5	<5	6	<5	<5	-	-	-



Live Births By Race, Age of Mother, Parish of Occurrence, and Parish of Residence Louisiana, 1999													
Parish And larger Cities	Total by Occurrence	Total by Residence	Rate+	Race	Age in years								
					LT 15	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 +	Unk.
St Bernard	<5	838	12.5	All	-	126	227	250	156	57	22	-	-
	<5	728		White	-	106	184	219	149	49	21	-	-
	<5	85		Black	-	19	31	25	<5	5	<5	-	-
	-	25		Other	-	<5	12	6	<5	<5	-	-	-
St Charles	<5	682	14.3	All	-	88	177	203	150	51	13	-	-
	<5	455		White	-	38	107	147	119	37	7	-	-
	<5	219		Black	-	50	69	53	29	12	6	-	-
	-	8		Other	-	-	<5	<5	<5	<5	-	-	-
St Helena	<5	134	15.0	All	-	19	46	41	21	5	<5	-	-
	<5	56		White	-	5	19	17	11	<5	<5	-	-
	-	78		Black	-	14	27	24	10	<5	<5	-	-
	-	-		Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
St James	<5	330	15.4	All	<5	45	103	85	63	26	5	-	-
	<5	111		White	-	9	21	37	30	12	<5	-	-
	<5	217		Black	<5	36	82	46	33	14	<5	-	-
	-	<5		Other	-	-	-	<5	-	-	-	-	-
St John	435	705	16.9	All	<5	127	215	165	119	67	7	<5	-
	236	330		White	-	44	91	89	68	37	<5	-	-
	196	365		Black	<5	82	121	74	49	28	6	<5	-
	<5	10		Other	-	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	-	-	-
St Landry	1229	1394	16.7	All	11	288	474	324	182	89	24	-	<5
	661	693		White	<5	121	202	192	113	57	6	-	-
	566	697		Black	9	166	270	132	68	32	18	-	<5
	<5	<5		Other	-	<5	<5	-	<5	-	-	-	-
St Martin	<5	756	15.9	All	<5	144	260	173	109	55	13	-	-
	<5	461		White	-	67	154	119	77	39	5	-	-
	<5	280		Black	<5	73	105	49	30	13	8	-	-
	-	15		Other	-	<5	<5	5	<5	<5	-	-	-
St Mary	556	879	15.4	All	5	186	310	203	128	39	8	-	-
	309	527		White	<5	89	177	140	91	24	<5	-	-
	227	309		Black	<5	88	120	55	29	12	<5	-	-
	20	43		Other	<5	9	13	8	8	<5	<5	-	-
St Tammany	3579	2694	14.3	All	<5	284	616	700	687	346	59	-	-
	2826	2269		White	-	189	474	621	621	311	53	-	-
	705	379		Black	<5	90	134	65	53	29	6	-	-
	48	46		Other	-	5	8	14	13	6	-	-	-
Tangipahoa	1617	1639	16.9	All	8	339	578	400	202	91	19	<5	-
	952	975		White	<5	152	290	293	157	67	13	<5	-
	657	652		Black	7	186	287	102	41	23	6	-	-
	8	12		Other	-	<5	<5	5	<5	<5	-	-	-
Tensas	<5	116	18.4	All	-	26	45	26	7	9	<5	-	-
	<5	35		White	-	6	16	11	-	<5	-	-	-
	<5	81		Black	-	20	29	15	7	7	<5	-	-
	-	-		Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-



Live Births By Race, Age of Mother, Parish of Occurrence, and Parish of Residence Louisiana, 1999													
Parish And larger Cities	Total by Occurrence	Total by Residence	Rate+	Race	Age in years								
					LT 15	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 +	Unk.
Terrebonne	2144	1620	15.5	All	6	299	524	395	275	105	15	<5	-
	1333	1126		White	<5	183	359	283	206	83	9	<5	-
	644	352		Black	<5	86	114	76	54	15	<5	-	-
	167	142		Other	-	30	51	36	15	7	<5	-	-
Union	<5	336	15.1	All	<5	57	119	85	47	23	<5	-	-
	-	195		White	-	31	64	53	32	15	-	-	-
	<5	136		Black	<5	26	53	29	15	8	<5	-	-
	-	5		Other	-	-	<5	<5	-	-	-	-	-
Vermilion	169	835	16.1	All	<5	134	253	217	150	65	13	-	-
	82	628		White	<5	89	193	170	111	55	8	-	-
	76	179		Black	<5	43	53	36	32	10	<5	-	-
	11	28		Other	-	<5	7	11	7	-	<5	-	-
Vernon	635	1042	21.9	All	-	148	434	270	130	48	12	-	-
	434	795		White	-	118	322	209	96	39	11	-	-
	156	201		Black	-	28	94	43	30	6	-	-	-
	45	46		Other	-	<5	18	18	<5	<5	<5	-	-
Washington	5	691	15.6	All	<5	130	275	165	83	29	6	-	-
	-	423		White	-	64	167	115	54	19	<5	-	-
	5	266		Black	<5	66	108	49	28	10	<5	-	-
	-	<5		Other	-	-	-	<5	<5	-	-	-	-
Webster	692	559	13.0	All	<5	105	197	150	61	34	8	-	-
	386	338		White	-	63	108	100	40	22	5	-	-
	304	219		Black	<5	42	89	49	20	12	<5	-	-
	<5	<5		Other	-	-	-	<5	<5	-	-	-	-
W Baton Rouge	-	310	15.2	All	<5	55	88	83	50	27	6	-	-
	-	184		White	<5	21	52	53	35	20	<5	-	-
	-	126		Black	-	34	36	30	15	7	<5	-	-
	-	-		Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Carroll	<5	164	13.5	All	-	39	53	48	12	9	<5	-	-
	<5	129		White	-	29	39	43	8	7	<5	-	-
	<5	35		Black	-	10	14	5	<5	<5	-	-	-
	-	-		Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
W Feliciana	-	158	11.5	All	<5	22	51	39	30	13	<5	-	-
	-	73		White	-	<5	24	23	15	6	<5	-	-
	-	85		Black	<5	18	27	16	15	7	<5	-	-
	-	-		Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winn	-	227	13.1	All	<5	41	87	63	25	10	-	-	-
	-	155		White	-	23	52	51	20	9	-	-	-
	-	72		Black	<5	18	35	12	5	<5	-	-	-
	-	-		Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Out of state	780	1165		All	<5	91	352	316	257	105	35	8	-
	405	953		White	-	71	253	277	223	91	30	8	-
	373	189		Black	<5	20	90	34	29	11	<5	-	-
	<5	23		Other	-	-	9	5	5	<5	<5	-	-

+Rate per 1,000 population

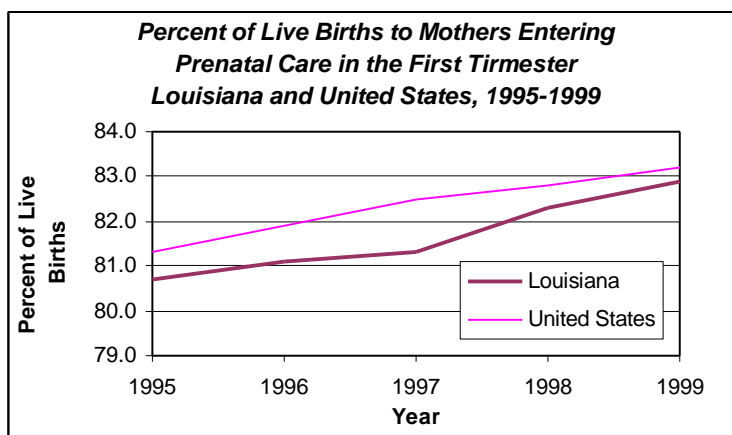
Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics



Prenatal Care

Prenatal care is recognized as an important means of providing medical, nutritional, and educational interventions to reduce the risk of adverse pregnancy outcomes and to identify women at high risk for these outcomes. It has been estimated that for every dollar spent on prenatal care, up to \$3.38 can be saved in direct medical costs.² Beyond the positive effect on birth outcomes, prenatal care is a vital part of women's health care, as many women (particularly adolescents, minorities, and women of low socio-economic status) first enter the health care system during pregnancy.³

Prenatal care is most effective when it begins during the early stages of pregnancy. At the national level, the percentage of live births to mothers entering prenatal care in the first trimester has been steadily increasing. Louisiana, while consistently below the national percentage, has shown similar improvement.



Sources: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics
National Center for Health Statistics (preliminary 1999 data)

In the following table, percentages of live births to mothers utilizing prenatal care are furnished to allow comparison of Louisiana with neighboring states. (As previously noted, preliminary NCHS 1999 numbers are used for cross-state comparisons.) In 1999, 82.9% of Louisiana residents who gave birth entered prenatal care in the first trimester, as compared with 83.2% of mothers in the United States. Louisiana ranked 33rd highest in the nation, and second among neighboring states, for percent of mothers receiving prenatal care in the first trimester.

Percent of Live Births to Mothers Receiving Prenatal Care in the First Trimester of Pregnancy Louisiana, Neighboring States, and United States, 1999		
State	Percent of Mothers	National Ranking
Alabama	83.2	30
Arkansas	79.3	45
Louisiana	82.9	33
Mississippi	81.5	37
Texas	79.3	46
United States	83.2	-

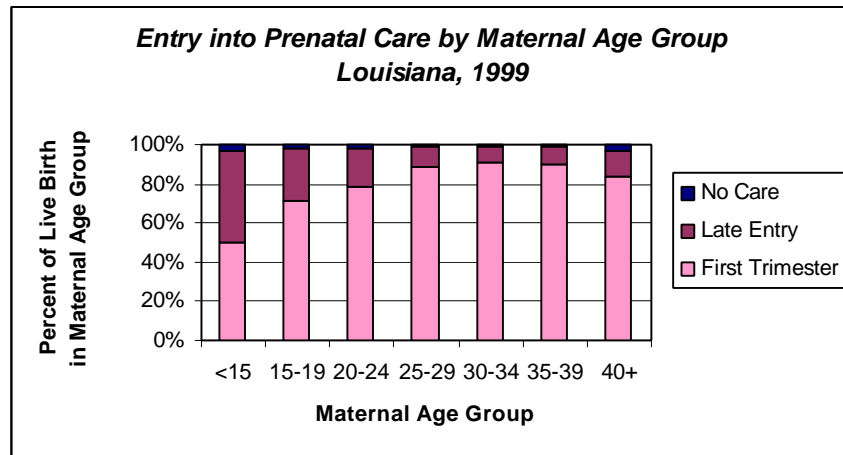
Source: National Center for Health Statistics (preliminary 1999 data)

² Institute of Medicine. (1994). "Prenatal Care and Low Birthweight: Effects on Health Care Expenditures." In: *Preventing Low Birthweight*. (pp. 212-37) Washington, DC: National Academy Press.

³ Fiscella, K. (1995). "Does Prenatal Care Improve Birth Outcomes? A Critical Review." *Obstetrics & Gynecology* 85, 468-79.

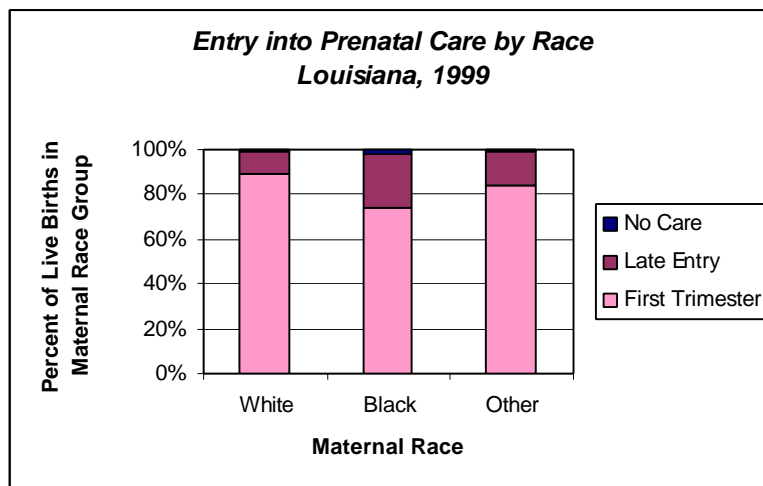


Only half (50.2%) of mothers under the age of 15 started prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy, and 3.0% of this age group never received any prenatal care. However, entry into care improved with age before leveling off in the mid-thirties.



Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics

Black women entered into prenatal care in a timely manner less frequently than whites and other races. Only 73.3% of black mothers had their first prenatal visit in the first trimester, compared with 89.8% of white mothers. Also, 2.4% of black mothers received no prenatal care, as compared with 0.6% of white mothers.



Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics

In Louisiana, adequacy of prenatal care is measured by a modified Kessner index, which defines prenatal care as adequate if the first prenatal visit occurred in the first trimester of pregnancy and if the total number of visits was appropriate to the gestational age of the baby at birth. It should be noted, however, that these measures assess neither the quality nor the content of prenatal care and, therefore, are most likely overestimates of the adequacy of care. Of the 67,034 Louisiana residents who gave birth in 1999, 77.5% received adequate care.



<i>Percent of Mothers Receiving Adequate* Prenatal Care by Parish Louisiana, 1994-1999</i>						
<i>Parish</i>	<i>1994</i>	<i>1995</i>	<i>1996</i>	<i>1997</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>1999</i>
Louisiana	71.8	73.5	74.8	75.4	76.9	77.5
Acadia	52.6	50.3	57.7	59.6	69.7	71.6
Allen	64.7	63.3	70.4	67.2	74.9	77.3
Ascension	78.3	79.5	79.1	83.0	82.7	82.8
Assumption	75.2	75.5	78.2	82.7	80.9	83.1
Avoyelles	61.1	64.4	70.0	69.7	69.7	71.8
Beauregard	60.7	60.7	63.5	70.8	70.3	81.0
Bienville	58.1	61.5	57.2	64.5	69.0	61.9
Bossier	77.2	79.5	77.9	76.3	80.8	81.4
Caddo	70.4	71.0	69.5	68.0	72.9	72.0
Calcasieu	78.3	80.0	79.6	81.6	81.6	84.1
Caldwell	75.4	80.7	79.4	79.0	78.8	79.7
Cameron	81.5	88.6	84.3	84.0	83.3	84.0
Catahoula	71.0	74.3	65.7	73.3	68.3	68.1
Claiborne	58.1	67.4	63.4	61.0	58.0	61.7
Concordia	65.9	72.7	73.7	65.7	64.1	69.7
DeSoto	69.2	68.8	66.8	68.1	76.0	70.2
East Baton Rouge	74.5	78.3	75.7	75.4	75.3	74.7
East Carroll	56.1	55.9	69.6	60.3	58.3	52.4
East Feliciana	65.8	67.7	60.1	70.8	72.6	76.7
Evangeline	66.2	62.7	69.7	69.0	66.1	69.4
Franklin	71.7	74.6	65.4	70.3	66.5	71.9
Grant	72.4	77.0	79.8	79.5	80.0	83.9
Iberia	66.5	66.9	61.2	61.1	57.5	62.6
Iberville	73.0	75.4	74.4	78.1	73.2	72.9
Jackson	47.9	57.8	59.1	57.8	58.3	65.6
Jefferson	79.4	81.6	61.1	83.6	82.2	81.7
Jefferson Davis	58.6	62.6	83.3	62.6	60.1	61.5
Lafayette	79.0	72.5	74.1	80.3	85.1	87.8
Lafourche	78.0	83.4	79.8	78.2	84.5	83.0
LaSalle	68.7	65.7	72.9	71.1	80.1	75.8
Lincoln	36.7	48.6	49.9	49.2	48.3	54.3
Livingston	79.4	79.7	83.9	85.2	84.5	87.5
Madison	57.1	56.8	64.4	55.5	59.4	67.5
Morehouse	55.6	50.0	50.6	49.8	49.2	53.8
Natchitoches	60.7	73.7	72.0	68.9	75.5	69.8
Orleans	66.7	65.8	71.4	74.7	76.1	76.6
Ouachita	74.2	78.3	78.0	77.1	79.8	78.1
Plaquemines	71.7	74.0	79.0	74.8	77.9	82.4
Pointe Coupee	69.1	76.5	76.5	75.9	75.5	76.8
Rapides	68.0	70.3	74.7	74.5	75.5	75.8
Red River	69.0	74.5	58.0	64.7	71.3	66.9
Richland	63.9	68.5	75.7	72.8	78.8	76.8
Sabine	64.4	72.9	69.8	73.1	76.8	76.3
St. Bernard	85.5	86.7	88.5	89.9	88.4	85.0



Percent of Mothers Receiving Adequate* Prenatal Care by Parish Louisiana, 1994-1999						
Parish	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
St. Charles	80.7	80.0	84.9	82.6	83.6	76.1
St. Helena	73.8	68.4	71.6	86.9	88.6	89.4
St. James	65.2	65.5	68.2	63.3	68.9	68.9
St. John	64.7	62.9	72.1	65.1	64.6	68.7
St. Landry	57.4	62.0	66.1	63.6	66.0	67.6
St. Martin	70.6	70.2	70.8	73.2	77.6	79.1
St. Mary	77.3	76.9	79.0	75.7	79.0	78.2
St. Tammany	85.8	87.3	86.0	85.8	85.7	84.2
Tangipahoa	72.8	78.8	79.8	87.5	90.9	91.8
Tensas	72.2	67.6	60.0	60.7	50.5	63.5
Terrebonne	71.0	75.9	76.1	73.4	79.8	78.5
Union	59.7	66.1	63.1	66.7	66.2	65.5
Vermilion	76.7	77.1	81.0	84.0	83.7	85.1
Vernon	75.7	76.8	76.9	77.7	77.1	81.3
Washington	62.0	65.6	78.4	74.1	76.3	77.4
Webster	69.7	72.6	76.9	68.9	69.2	72.4
West Baton Rouge	71.0	79.3	74.9	78.6	82.6	74.8
West Carroll	64.9	64.4	67.9	58.6	57.9	58.6
West Feliciana	65.1	75.8	63.3	71.3	84.8	78.6
Winn	49.1	51.4	64.0	57.4	63.6	73.7

*According to modified Kessner index

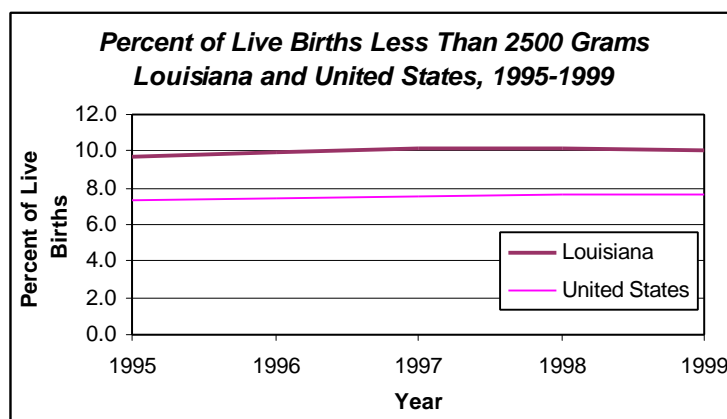
Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics



Low Birthweight

A low birthweight infant is defined as an infant weighing less than 2500 grams (5 pounds, 8 ounces) at birth. Low birthweight is a major cause of infant mortality, with more than three-quarters of infant deaths caused by babies being born too small or too early.⁴ Low birthweight contributes significantly to later childhood handicap as well. Low birthweight infants are more likely to have brain damage, lung and liver disease, subnormal growth, developmental problems, and other adverse health conditions. The effects of low birthweight can follow infants throughout life, as they are more likely to have mild learning disorders, attention disorders, and developmental impairments.⁵ A higher proportion of low birthweight infants also go on to be enrolled in special education classes than their normal birthweight counterparts.⁶

In 1999, 6,714 of the infants born to Louisiana residents weighed less than 2500 grams (5lbs, 8oz). This represents 10.0% of the live births that year, as compared with 7.6% of the babies born in the United States who were low birthweight. Both Louisiana and the United States have seen an increase in the percentage of infants with low birthweight in recent years.



Sources: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics
National Center for Health Statistics (preliminary 1999 data)

In the following table, percentages are furnished to provide an idea of Louisiana's standing among the neighboring states in terms of low birthweight infants. (As previously noted, preliminary NCHS 1999 percentages are used for cross-state comparisons.) In 1999, Louisiana had the third highest percentage of low birthweight babies in the nation, outranked by only Mississippi and Washington DC.

⁴ Paneth NS. (1995) "The Problem of Low Birth Weight." In *The Future of Children, Low Birth Weight* (19-34).

⁵ Institute of Medicine. (1985). "The Significance of Low Birthweight." In *Preventing Low Birthweight*. (21-45). Washington, DC: National Academy Press.

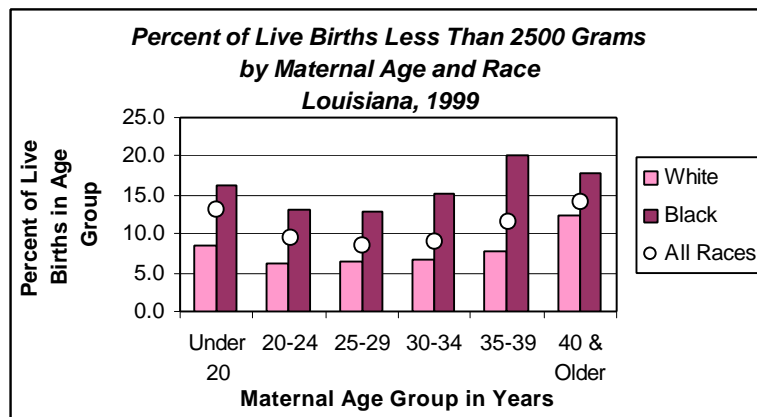
⁶ Hack M, Klein NK, Taylor HG. "Long-Term Developmental Outcomes of Low Birth Weight Infants." *The Future of Children, Low Birth Weight* 1995;5:19-34.



Percent of Live Births Less Than 2500 Grams Louisiana, Neighboring States, and United States, 1999		
State	Percent of Live Births	National Ranking
Alabama	9.3	4
Arkansas	8.6	10
Louisiana	10.0	2
Mississippi	10.3	1
Texas	7.3	30
United States	7.6	-

Source: National Center for Health Statistics (preliminary 1999 data)

Blacks gave birth to infants of low birthweight more than twice as frequently as white women did, at 14.5% compared with 6.9% of live births. This discrepancy held true for all age groups. Examination of births by age groups found mothers over age 40 had the highest percentage of low birthweight babies (14.2% of live births), followed by mothers under age 20 (13.1%).



Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics

In 1999 Concordia parish had the highest percentage of low birthweight babies at 17.2% of live births, and LaSalle parish had the lowest at 4.4% of live births. The map on the following page shows the percent of live births that are low birthweight babies in each parish.





Infants weighing less than 1500 grams (3lbs, 5oz) at birth are considered to be very low birthweight and are at much greater risk of mortality and long-term disability. The risk of early death for very low birthweight infants is about 65 times that of infants who weigh at least 1500 grams.⁷ In 1999, 2.1% of infants born to Louisiana residents weighed less than 1500 grams, as compared with 1.5% of infants born to United States residents. As with infants weighing less than 2500 grams, there were demographic differences in the mothers giving birth to very low birthweight infants. Black mothers gave birth to very low birthweight infants three times as frequently as white mothers did, at 3.4% compared with 1.2% of live births. Infants born to the youngest and the oldest mothers were more frequently very low birthweight. Of all infants born to mothers under the age of 20 years, 2.4% were very low birthweight; 2.6% of infants born to mothers over the age of 40 years were very low birthweight.

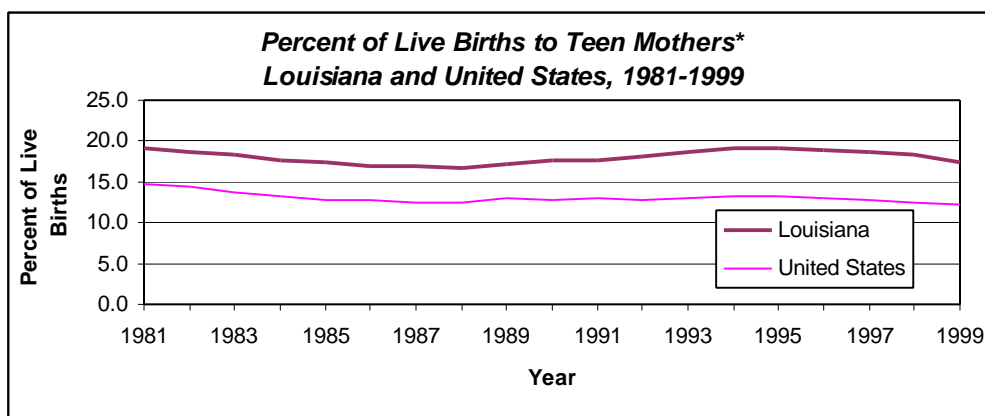
⁷ Ventura SJ, Martin JA, Curtin SC, Mathews TJ. "Report of Final Natality Statistics, 1995." *Monthly Vital Statistics Report*; vol 45 no 11, supp. Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics. 1997.



Teen Births

Despite an overall decrease in teen birth rates over the last two decades, teenage pregnancy continues to be a problem for the nation. Teen mothers are less likely to receive adequate prenatal care and are more likely to give birth to low birthweight infants.⁸ Their infants are more likely to be hospitalized and go on to have childhood health problems. National statistics report that most births to teens (78.9%) occur outside marriage⁹ and 25% of teenage mothers go on to have children within the next two years.¹⁰ These factors, combined with the fact that teenage mothers are less likely to finish high school, contribute to the high proportion of women living in poverty who first gave birth during adolescence. In 1993, of the 3.8 million mothers aged 15-44 who received welfare or Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), 55% first became mothers as teenagers.¹¹ In fiscal year 1995, Louisiana spent over \$875 million on programs that support families begun by teens (in the form of AFDC, Food Stamps, WIC, and Medicaid). In contrast, Louisiana spent only \$5.7 million on programs designed to prevent teenage pregnancy.¹²

In 1999, there were 11,758 live births to Louisiana residents under the age of 20. This number comprised 17.5% of the total live births to Louisiana residents in 1999, as compared with 12.2% at the national level.



*Teen mothers are less than 20 years old at the time of birth

Sources: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics

National Center for Health Statistics (preliminary 1999 data)

⁸ Lewis CT, Mathews TJ, Heuser RL. *Prenatal Care in the United States, 1980-94*. National Center for Health Statistics. *Vital Health Stat* 21(54). 1996.

⁹ Ventura SJ, Curtin SC, Martin JA, Mathews TJ. "Variations in Teenage Birth Rates, 1991-98." *National Vital Statistics Reports*, vol 48 no 6. Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics. 2000.

¹⁰ The Alan Guttmacher Institute. *Sex and America's Teenagers*. 1994.

¹¹ The Alan Guttmacher Institute. *Issues in Brief*. February 1995.

¹² Kreutzer, Tracy A. *Expenditures and Investments: Adolescent Pregnancy in the South*. Volume II. Southern Regional Project on Infant Mortality. Washington, DC. 1997.



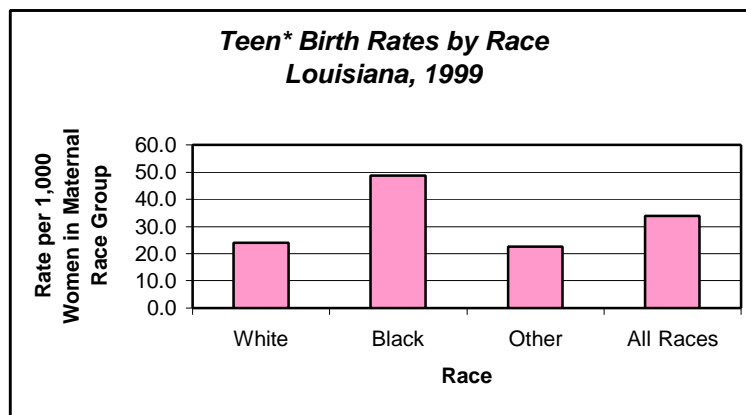
In the table below, percentages are furnished to provide an idea of Louisiana's standing among the neighboring states in terms of births to teenagers. (As noted previously, preliminary NCHS 1999 numbers are used to facilitate cross-state comparisons.) Louisiana consistently has ranked near the top of the states in terms of percentage of live births to teens, and 1999 was no exception. Louisiana had the fourth highest percentage of live births to teens in the nation, one of four southern states ranked among the top five in the country.

Percent of Live Births to Teens*		
Louisiana, Neighboring States, and United States, 1999		
State	Percent of Live Births	National Ranking
Alabama	16.2	5
Arkansas	17.8	3
Louisiana	17.6	4
Mississippi	19.7	1
Texas	15.9	7
United States	12.2	-

*Teen mothers are less than 20 years old at the time of birth

Source: National Center for Health Statistics (preliminary 1999 data)

To make comparisons of births among teens in different race groups meaningful, teen birth rates have been calculated by relating the number of teen births in each race group to the total number of teen women in the same race group. This method of calculating teen birth rates controls for differences in the proportion of women in the race groups, and is the method used by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS).¹³ In Louisiana, the birth rate for black teenagers in 1999 was more than twice that of white teenagers, at 48.9 compared with 23.9 births per 1,000 women in the respective age and race groups.



*Teen mothers are less than 20 years old at the time of birth

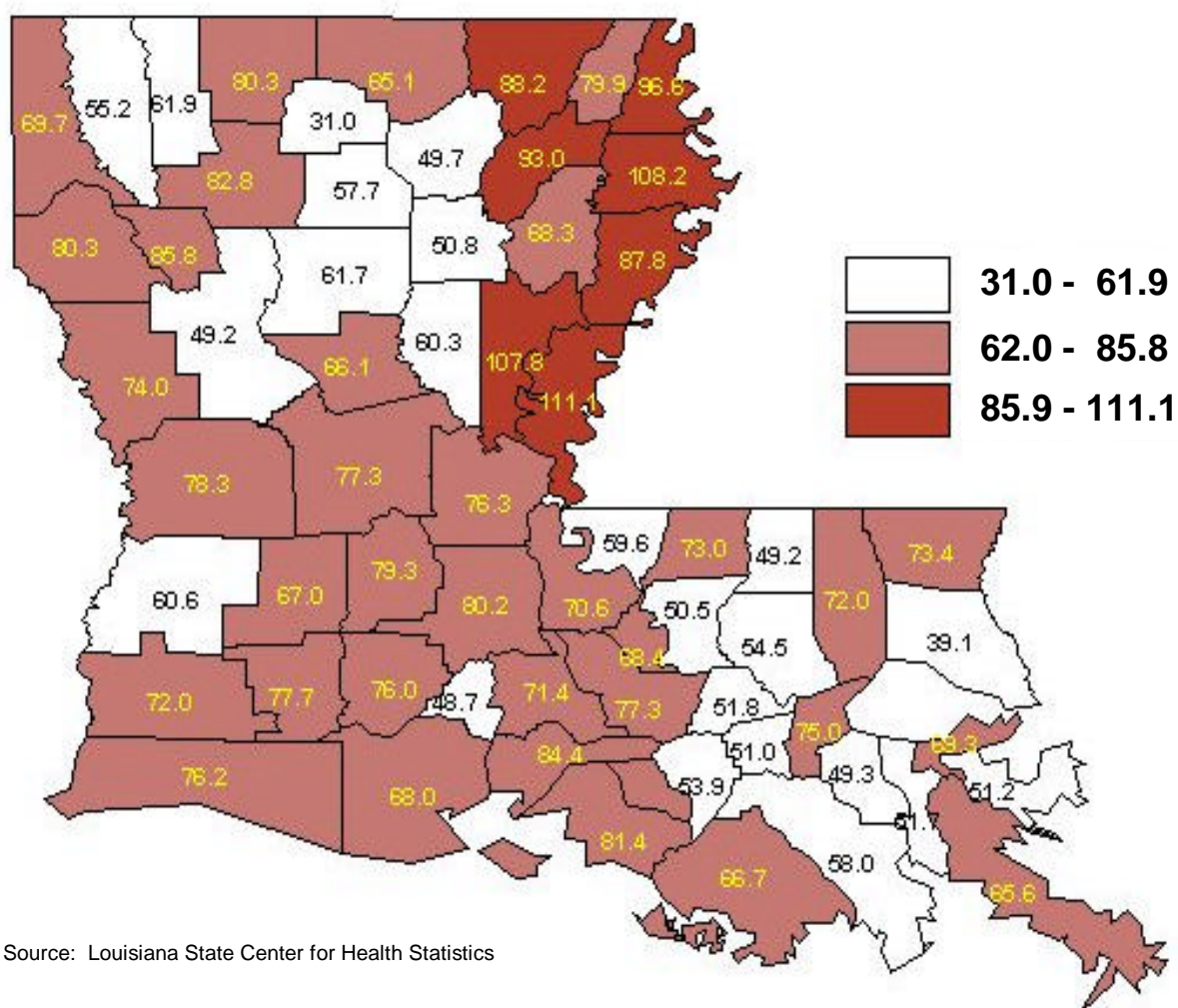
Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics

There is considerable variation in teenage birth rates by parish. In 1999 Concordia parish had the highest rate at 111.1 births per 1,000 women aged 15-19. This is almost three times the rate of Lincoln, the parish with the lowest rate at 31.0 births per 1,000 women aged 15-19. The following map shows teenage birth rates in Louisiana by parish.

¹³ Clarke SC and Ventura SL. *Birth and Fertility Rate for States: United States, 1990*. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 21(52). 1994.



Teen Birth Rate Per 1,000 Women Ages 15-19 Louisiana, 1999



Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics



Percent of Total Live Births to Teenagers 15-19 Years of Age Louisiana, 1995-1999															
	15-17 Years					18-19 Years					15-19 Years*				
	95	96	97	98	99	95	96	97	98	99	95	96	97	98	99
Louisiana	7	7	7	6	6	11	11	11	11	11	19	18	18	18	17
Acadia	8	7	9	7	6	12	13	13	13	14	21	20	22	20	20
Allen	8	6	5	4	5	13	11	15	14	11	21	17	21	18	17
Ascension	5	6	5	5	4	10	9	9	9	8	15	15	13	14	12
Assumption	6	6	9	7	7	12	14	14	14	11	18	20	23	20	18
Avovelles	7	7	10	8	6	13	11	13	11	13	20	19	22	18	19
Beauregard	4	5	9	5	7	13	12	12	14	11	17	18	20	19	18
Bienville	5	10	10	12	9	14	10	14	12	20	19	21	24	23	29
Bossier	5	6	6	5	5	10	10	11	12	9	16	16	17	17	14
Caddo	8	8	7	6	7	12	11	12	13	12	19	18	19	20	19
Calcasieu	7	6	7	6	6	12	13	12	12	12	19	19	19	18	18
Caldwell	11	10	6	11	4	11	12	16	14	14	22	22	20	25	18
Cameron	5	9	12	11	4	9	21	10	15	16	14	30	22	26	20
Catahoula	11	6	8	9	9	14	20	18	18	22	25	26	26	27	31
Claiborne	10	13	9	10	12	8	9	11	10	13	19	22	20	20	24
Concordia	14	10	11	14	11	18	20	16	12	21	32	30	26	26	32
DeSoto	9	8	7	7	9	14	13	14	12	12	24	21	20	18	20
E. Baton Rouge	6	6	6	6	5	9	10	9	10	10	14	16	14	15	15
E. Carroll	14	7	17	12	14	13	8	6	17	14	27	16	22	29	28
E. Feliciana	5	9	8	5	7	11	24	16	17	11	16	33	24	22	19
Evangeline	8	10	11	7	6	14	14	12	13	14	23	24	22	20	21
Franklin	9	8	7	7	6	14	16	16	13	14	23	24	22	20	20
Grant	6	9	5	8	4	16	14	15	13	16	22	23	20	20	19
Iberia	9	10	8	9	8	15	11	12	14	13	24	21	20	23	21
Iberville	7	8	7	6	7	11	13	11	13	13	18	21	16	19	21
Jackson	7	8	7	5	6	14	12	9	12	12	22	20	15	17	18
Jefferson	5	7	6	5	5	10	12	9	9	9	15	20	15	14	14
Jefferson Davis	8	6	9	7	6	13	9	12	13	14	21	15	21	20	20
Lafayette	5	5	5	5	4	10	9	9	9	9	15	15	14	14	13
Lafourche	8	6	7	6	7	10	11	11	12	11	18	17	17	18	18
LaSalle	9	7	8	8	5	10	12	10	12	13	19	19	18	20	17
Lincoln	8	7	7	8	6	9	7	13	10	10	17	14	19	18	16
Livingston	6	5	6	6	5	11	11	10	9	10	18	16	17	15	15
Madison	14	10	11	13	10	13	17	13	13	18	27	27	21	27	29
Morehouse	15	10	13	10	9	15	13	15	14	17	30	24	27	26	26
Natchitoches	9	8	9	6	5	15	14	12	13	14	24	21	21	19	19
Orleans	10	9	8	8	7	12	12	12	12	12	22	20	20	21	19
Quachita	7	8	7	6	5	12	13	11	12	10	19	21	17	18	16
Plaquemines	6	10	8	5	5	11	12	12	11	12	17	21	19	16	16
Pointe Coupee	7	10	8	8	7	12	10	14	13	11	19	19	21	21	18
Rapides	7	7	9	8	7	14	14	12	14	13	21	21	21	22	20
Red River	6	9	11	7	10	13	15	9	13	13	19	24	18	20	23
Richland	14	10	12	11	11	15	14	12	14	13	29	23	23	24	24
Sabine	8	9	6	6	8	16	13	13	16	13	24	22	19	23	20
St. Bernard	6	6	4	5	5	10	11	10	8	11	15	17	14	14	15
St. Charles	7	4	6	5	4	6	9	10	9	9	13	13	15	14	13
St. Helena	8	10	7	10	4	15	17	14	6	10	23	27	20	16	14
St. James	8	7	5	6	6	9	8	9	12	8	18	15	14	18	14
St. John	6	6	7	6	7	11	12	12	12	11	17	18	18	19	18
St. Landry	7	8	9	8	7	12	13	12	14	13	19	22	21	22	21
St. Martin	6	8	8	8	7	12	12	11	13	12	18	20	19	20	19
St. Mary	9	9	8	7	7	14	14	14	13	14	23	23	22	20	21
St. Tammany	5	5	5	3	4	8	6	8	8	7	13	11	12	11	11
Tangipahoa	8	9	10	7	7	14	14	14	13	14	22	23	24	21	21
Tensas	11	12	19	5	7	19	17	14	23	16	31	30	32	29	22
Terrebonne	7	8	9	8	6	11	11	13	13	13	18	20	21	21	18
Union	8	8	10	6	4	13	15	9	10	13	22	22	19	16	17
Vermilion	7	5	6	8	6	12	12	11	13	10	19	18	16	20	16
Vernon	4	4	4	4	4	12	12	13	10	10	16	16	17	14	14
Washington	11	7	9	9	6	19	11	17	13	13	30	18	25	22	19
Webster	8	6	10	6	5	14	11	14	14	13	22	17	23	20	19
W. Baton Rouge	4	10	8	4	7	12	15	12	11	11	16	25	19	15	18
W. Carroll	7	9	5	11	8	13	11	15	11	16	21	20	20	23	24
W. Feliciana	10	7	8	6	7	5	17	9	11	7	15	23	17	18	14
Winn	12	7	10	9	5	13	13	16	13	13	25	19	26	21	18

*May not equal sum of "15-17 Years" and "18-19 Years" due to rounding

Source: Louisiana State Center for Health



<i>Births by Parish, Race of Mother, and Selected Characteristics Louisiana, 1999</i>				
<i>Parish</i>	<i>Total Births</i>	<i>Percent with Adequate Prenatal Care*</i>	<i>Percent Low Weight Births (<5lbs, 8oz)</i>	<i>% Births to Mothers Under Age 20 Years</i>
Louisiana	67,034	77.5	10.0	17.5
White	38,350	85.4	6.9	12.5
Black	27,234	66.4	14.5	25.0
Other	1,450	77.2	7.8	10.5
Acadia	940	71.6	9.4	20.4
White	725	78.9	8.6	16.3
Black	213	47.1	12.2	34.7
Other	<5	50.0	-	0.0
Allen	364	77.3	9.3	17.0
White	285	81.6	6.0	17.5
Black	71	65.7	19.7	14.1
Other	8	25.0	37.5	25.0
Ascension	1,314	82.8	7.2	12.7
White	987	89.2	5.3	9.3
Black	319	63.3	13.2	23.5
Other	8	62.5	-	0.0
Assumption	297	83.1	13.1	18.2
White	171	91.6	8.8	13.5
Black	123	70.8	19.5	25.2
Other	<5	100.0	-	0.0
Avoyelles	617	71.8	12.2	19.8
White	393	80.2	8.7	16.3
Black	221	56.7	18.6	25.8
Other	<5	66.7	-	33.3
Beauregard	433	81.0	6.2	18.5
White	371	85.7	5.9	17.5
Black	58	53.5	6.9	25.9
Other	<5	50.0	25.0	0.0
Bienville	171	61.9	13.5	30.4
White	97	76.6	15.5	15.5
Black	74	43.2	10.8	50.0
Other	-	-	-	-
Bossier	1,485	81.4	8.2	14.3
White	1058	86.8	6.0	10.7
Black	400	67.2	13.8	24.5
Other	27	81.5	11.1	7.4
Caddo	3,653	72.0	10.7	19.1
White	1,631	85.5	5.8	12.3
Black	1,973	60.4	15.0	25.2
Other	49	91.8	2.0	2.0
Calcasieu	2,858	84.1	10.0	18.6
White	2,005	89.1	7.6	15.7
Black	819	72.2	16.2	26.3
Other	34	82.4	2.9	8.8



<i>Births by Parish, Race of Mother, and Selected Characteristics Louisiana, 1999</i>				
<i>Parish</i>	<i>Total Births</i>	<i>Percent with Adequate Prenatal Care*</i>	<i>Percent Low Weight Births (<5lbs, 8oz)</i>	<i>% Births to Mothers Under Age 20 Years</i>
Caldwell	123	79.7	11.4	17.9
White	108	81.5	9.3	17.6
Black	15	66.7	26.7	20.0
Other	-	-	-	-
Cameron	125	84.0	7.2	20.0
White	119	84.9	6.7	20.2
Black	<5	100.0	33.3	33.3
Other	<5	33.3	-	0.0
Catahoula	142	68.1	5.6	31.0
White	82	81.7	3.7	24.4
Black	60	49.2	8.3	40.0
Other	-	-	-	-
Claiborne	190	61.7	5.8	25.3
White	79	80.8	1.3	20.3
Black	111	48.2	9.0	28.8
Other	-	-	-	-
Concordia	302	69.7	17.2	31.8
White	149	80.6	16.8	27.5
Black	150	59.9	18.0	36.0
Other	<5	33.3	-	33.3
DeSoto	396	70.2	9.6	21.5
White	207	78.8	6.8	15.9
Black	189	60.9	12.7	27.5
Other	-	-	-	-
E. Baton Rouge	6,206	74.7	10.9	15.2
White	2,874	88.1	7.0	6.1
Black	3203	62.7	14.5	23.6
Other	129	72.9	6.2	8.5
East Carroll	150	52.4	12.0	29.3
White	30	80.0	-	16.7
Black	120	45.4	15.0	32.5
Other	-	-	-	-
E. Feliciana	316	76.7	9.5	19.0
White	165	87.2	7.3	15.2
Black	151	65.1	11.9	23.2
Other	-	-	-	-
Evangeline	529	69.4	14.0	21.4
White	329	77.2	8.8	16.1
Black	198	56.6	22.7	30.3
Other	<5	50.0	-	0.0
Franklin	348	71.9	12.6	21.0
White	203	81.9	10.8	13.3
Black	143	57.9	15.4	32.2
Other	<5	50.0	-	0.0



<i>Births by Parish, Race of Mother, and Selected Characteristics Louisiana, 1999</i>				
<i>Parish</i>	<i>Total Births</i>	<i>Percent with Adequate Prenatal Care*</i>	<i>Percent Low Weight Births (<5lbs, 8oz)</i>	<i>% Births to Mothers Under Age 20 Years</i>
Grant	283	83.9	6.7	19.8
White	250	85.9	5.2	20.0
Black	31	65.5	19.4	19.4
Other	<5	100.0	-	0.0
Iberia	1,212	62.6	8.9	21.3
White	732	70.4	6.1	15.3
Black	449	50.8	13.8	31.4
Other	31	48.4	3.2	16.1
Iberville	460	72.9	11.7	20.7
White	217	82.8	7.4	14.3
Black	241	64.1	15.8	26.6
Other	<5	50.0	-	0.0
Jackson	196	65.6	10.7	17.9
White	135	76.5	11.9	15.6
Black	60	40.7	8.3	21.7
Other	<5	100.0	-	100.0
Jefferson	6,311	81.7	8.6	14.2
White	3,973	86.9	6.6	9.3
Black	1,979	71.1	12.8	24.8
Other	359	82.0	7.5	8.9
Jefferson Davis	514	61.5	7.8	20.2
White	398	63.2	6.5	17.8
Black	113	54.5	12.4	29.2
Other	<5	100.0	-	0.0
Lafayette	2,889	87.8	10.2	13.2
White	1,934	93.0	7.1	9.3
Black	908	77.2	16.6	21.8
Other	47	76.6	14.9	10.6
Lafourche	1,237	83.0	9.4	18.0
White	940	84.7	7.7	14.4
Black	252	77.4	16.3	30.2
Other	45	77.3	6.7	26.7
LaSalle	183	75.8	4.4	17.5
White	162	80.9	2.5	16.7
Black	20	31.6	20.0	25.0
Other	<5	100.0	-	0.0
Lincoln	549	54.3	8.0	16.9
White	260	74.1	4.6	9.6
Black	281	35.6	11.4	24.2
Other	8	62.5	-	0.0
Livingston	1,442	87.5	6.9	14.8
White	1,356	88.5	6.6	14.2
Black	79	69.2	13.9	26.6
Other	7	85.7	-	0.0



<i>Births by Parish, Race of Mother, and Selected Characteristics Louisiana, 1999</i>				
<i>Parish</i>	<i>Total Births</i>	<i>Percent with Adequate Prenatal Care*</i>	<i>Percent Low Weight Births (<5lbs, 8oz)</i>	<i>% Births to Mothers Under Age 20 Years</i>
Madison	244	67.5	8.6	29.1
White	69	94.1	2.9	21.7
Black	175	57.0	10.9	32.0
Other	-	-	-	-
Morehouse	471	53.8	13.0	26.8
White	212	60.5	8.5	19.8
Black	256	48.0	16.4	32.8
Other	<5	66.7	33.3	0.0
Natchitoches	576	69.8	10.6	19.1
White	276	82.0	8.7	15.2
Black	297	58.2	12.1	22.9
Other	<5	100.0	33.3	0.0
Orleans	7,663	76.6	12.9	19.7
White	1,409	89.2	7.0	4.3
Black	6,062	73.6	14.5	23.8
Other	192	80.5	5.7	2.1
Ouachita	2,139	78.1	9.5	16.7
White	1,128	86.9	5.6	11.0
Black	994	68.1	14.0	23.3
Other	17	70.6	5.9	5.9
Plaquemines	416	82.4	9.4	16.1
White	292	87.2	8.9	15.1
Black	111	70.6	10.8	19.8
Other	13	76.9	7.7	7.7
Pointe Coupee	370	76.8	10.3	17.8
White	208	90.7	6.3	12.0
Black	160	58.5	15.6	25.6
Other	<5	100.0	-	0.0
Rapides	1,990	75.8	10.4	19.8
White	1,162	84.7	6.8	16.4
Black	799	63.2	15.5	24.4
Other	29	67.9	10.3	27.6
Red River	141	66.9	13.5	22.7
White	64	81.3	10.9	17.2
Black	76	54.1	15.8	27.6
Other	<5	100.0	-	0.0
Richland	360	76.8	12.5	25.0
White	188	83.3	5.3	19.1
Black	172	69.6	20.3	31.4
Other	-	-	-	-
Sabine	320	76.3	9.1	20.3
White	231	80.7	6.9	21.2
Black	72	59.7	16.7	15.3
Other	17	88.2	5.9	29.4



<i>Births by Parish, Race of Mother, and Selected Characteristics Louisiana, 1999</i>				
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St. Bernard	838	85.0	7.6	15.0
White	728	86.2	6.3	14.6
Black	85	75.3	18.8	22.4
Other	25	84.0	8.0	4.0
St. Charles	682	76.1	8.5	12.9
White	455	83.3	7.3	8.4
Black	219	61.6	11.0	22.8
Other	8	62.5	12.5	0.0
St. Helena	134	89.4	7.5	14.2
White	56	92.7	7.1	8.9
Black	78	87.0	7.7	17.9
Other	-	-	-	-
St. James	330	68.9	11.2	14.5
White	111	85.6	3.6	8.1
Black	217	60.9	14.7	18.0
Other	<5	-	50.0	0.0
St. John	705	68.7	8.4	18.6
White	330	78.4	4.5	13.3
Black	365	59.9	11.8	23.6
Other	10	70.0	10.0	10.0
St. Landry	1,394	67.6	11.8	21.4
White	693	78.4	8.9	17.7
Black	697	56.9	14.6	25.1
Other	<5	50.0	25.0	25.0
St. Martin	756	79.1	10.3	19.3
White	461	87.8	7.8	14.5
Black	280	64.9	15.0	26.8
Other	15	80.0	-	26.7
St. Mary	879	78.2	10.2	21.7
White	527	83.9	8.3	17.3
Black	309	69.0	13.3	29.1
Other	43	74.4	11.6	23.3
St. Tammany	2,694	84.2	7.2	10.6
White	2,269	87.5	6.2	8.3
Black	379	65.2	12.7	24.3
Other	46	78.3	10.9	10.9
Tangipahoa	1,639	91.8	10.3	21.2
White	975	92.7	6.6	15.7
Black	652	90.5	15.8	29.6
Other	12	83.3	16.7	8.3
Tensas	116	63.5	12.1	22.4
White	35	91.4	5.7	17.1
Black	81	51.3	14.8	24.7
Other	-	-	-	-



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Terrebonne	1,620	78.5	9.3	18.8
White	1,126	80.6	7.5	16.4
Black	352	76.2	14.5	25.6
Other	142	67.6	10.6	21.1
Union	336	65.5	10.4	18.2
White	195	79.8	5.6	15.9
Black	136	43.8	16.2	22.1
Other	5	75.0	40.0	0.0
Vermilion	835	85.1	10.4	16.4
White	628	89.5	8.0	14.5
Black	179	70.9	20.7	24.6
Other	28	78.6	-	7.1
Vernon	1042	81.3	7.7	14.2
White	795	81.9	7.4	14.8
Black	201	76.0	9.5	13.9
Other	46	93.5	4.3	4.3
Washington	691	77.4	11.3	19.2
White	423	85.1	10.4	15.1
Black	266	65.0	12.8	25.9
Other	<5	100.0	-	0.0
Webster	559	72.4	11.8	19.5
White	338	84.0	6.8	18.6
Black	219	54.0	18.7	21.0
Other	<5	100.0	100.0	0.0
W. Baton Rouge	310	74.8	7.1	18.1
White	184	84.4	4.9	12.0
Black	126	61.1	10.3	27.0
Other	-	-	-	-
West Carroll	164	58.6	12.2	23.8
White	129	60.6	10.1	22.5
Black	35	51.4	20.0	28.6
Other	-	-	-	-
W. Feliciana	158	78.6	6.3	14.6
White	73	91.7	2.7	5.5
Black	85	67.1	9.4	22.4
Other	-	-	-	-
Winn	227	73.7	7.9	18.5
White	155	82.4	4.5	14.8
Black	72	54.9	15.3	26.4
Other	-	-	-	-

*According to modified Kessner index

Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics